

THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:-

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1. A method of forming a tube from an elongate sheet of material having a pair of spaced and parallel edges, the method including:-
- 5 forming the elongate sheet into a tube such that the lateral edges of the sheet overlap to define an overlap region having an inner overlap portion and an outer overlap portion;
- punching the inner overlap portion and outer overlap portion to define a tab in each, said tabs being aligned such that the tab defined in the inner portion is
- 10 directly underneath the tab defined in the outer portion; and
- folding the tabs whereby the inner overlap portion and outer overlap portion are fixed together.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tabs are folded inwardly.
- 15 3. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tabs are substantially V or U shaped.
4. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tabs are simultaneously punched.
- 20 5. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein complementary pairs of tabs are provided along the length of the tube at regular centres.
6. A tube formed according to the method defined in any one of claims 1 to 5.
- 25 7. A tube manufactured from an elongate sheet of material formed into a tube and having its lateral edges overlapping to define an inner overlapping portion and an outer overlapping portion, a tab defined in the inner overlapping portion, a tab defined in the outer overlapping portion, said tabs being aligned such that the tab
- 30 defined in the inner overlapping portion lies directly beneath the tab defined in the outer overlapping portion, said tabs being folded such that the inner overlapping portion and outer overlapping portion are fixed together.

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8. A tube as claimed in claim 7, wherein said tabs are folded inwardly.

9. A tube as claimed in claim 7, wherein said tabs are substantially V or U shaped.

10. A tube as claimed in claim 7, wherein complementary pairs of tabs are provided at regular centres along the length of the tube.

11. A tube or the like including:-

a longitudinally extending seam formed by overlapping opposed edges of sheet material forming the tube; and

fastening means for fastening together the overlapped edges, the fastening means being integrally formed by material punched from the overlapped edges.

12. A tube as claimed in claim 11, wherein the fastening means are tabs bent to abut the tube surface.

13. A method of forming a tube or the like, the method including:-

bending sheet material about a longitudinal axis to overlap opposed edges of the material;

integrally fastening the overlapped edges by punching material from the overlapped edges.

14. A method as claimed in claim 13, and further including:-

bending the punched material to abut the tube surface.